

As troubling as the motivations behind this vote are, more troubling still is the majority's willingness to put the full faith and credit of the United States at risk to gain leverage over economic policy. Republicans should not be holding the economy hostage to advance their ideological agenda, especially when the economic recovery is still fragile.

Earlier this year, I joined with my colleagues in asking House Republicans to support a clean debt limit increase, but today it's clear they will not. In short, the majority is playing with fire. Remember this: default would set off a catastrophic chain of economic consequences, putting not just the economic recovery at risk, but risking a new, deeper recession. It would affect every single American family, every single worker and every single retiree. There is no reason to manufacture a crisis, but we have seen this play before from the majority, who manufactured a crisis over funding the government in the 2011 fiscal year: a crisis that ended up costing taxpayers more money and realizing none of the promised savings this year.

The majority can do better than partisan posturing, and it must. There are many members—on both sides of the aisle—who I suspect share this conviction. I have long advocated a comprehensive approach to deficit reduction. I believe any serious approach puts all the options—revenue, as well as domestic, defense and entitlement spending, carefully targeted in all cases—on the table as we chart a course back to fiscal balance. But where we cut and of whom we ask additional sacrifice should be consistent with our priorities and values.

If we consider all the options, we can chart a course to fiscal balance, one that invests in the things that ensure our economic success: education, innovation, and infrastructure. If we consider all the options, we can safeguard our commitment to seniors instead of undermining it by turning Medicare into a voucher program. Congress must do better than a budget that ends Medicare as we know it to pay for tax cuts to oil companies and wealthy individuals, and at the same time sinks the country \$1.9 trillion further into debt. Not long ago, many responsible members of the majority party favored a comprehensive approach. As we move forward, I urge them not to wilt on the vine in the face of pressure from those on the far right.

Congress must come together and negotiate in good faith if we are going to do the two critical things required of us: to put the American people back to work in a fully recovered economy, and to chart a course back to fiscal balance. I will vote for this legislation today, because America must pay its bills. But this Republican move is far more symbolic than serious, harnessing only Congress' power as an instrument of partisan politics, and not its power as an instrument to answer the country's problems.

“ENDEAVOUR”—IN HONOR OF HER  
FINAL MISSION THE ENDEAVOUR  
STS-134

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in gratitude of the brave men and

women of NASA, and the Shuttle program. On this, *Endeavour's* last and final mission, and to the crew of Kelly, Johnson, Fincke, Chamtloff, Feustel, Vittori, we say God Speed. Our prayers are with you and your families. I ask that this poem penned in honor of them by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

ENDEAVOUR

When . . . Whenever . . . Whenever, We  
Endeavour!  
And go forth! All out upon our most heroic  
course \* \* \* and reach for the stars!  
To new heights, all in our hopes and dreams  
. . . This Flight . . . This Force, that  
only hearts can so ignite!  
Burning bold and burning bright, all out  
upon our most heroic ways!  
To strive for such lofty goals, and dreams!  
All out towards new worlds to explore, such  
magnificence . . . such themes!  
To soar to, where none before have gone!  
As ever onward, we speed . . . to far off and  
most distant shores . . .  
‘As all in this, it so surely seems . . .  
That this force, these golden dreams . . . but  
can only come from, from within . . .  
the bravest of all hearts, convene!  
Only with such shining hopes and dreams,  
will we reach this end!  
As we Endeavour, to go forth to see what  
must be seen!  
Armed with but only our hearts of courage  
full, as we so dare to dream, time and  
time again!  
As all ahead full, we proceed!  
To take us out of earth's surly bonds, all out  
upon our most historic course . . .  
To new worlds, so far beyond . . . this force!  
All in our search for the truth . . .  
To Discovery and beyond, all in the pursuit  
of knowledge . . . all in our hearts of  
youth!  
As we are gone! As to new world's we ex-  
plore!  
But, for Man and Womankind's very exist-  
ence to so insure!  
Above and beyond! To Reach For and  
Achieve, all in what we believe!  
As our hearts take flight, to plant these  
seeds!  
To meet Woman and Mankind's, needs!  
While, all out there on the edge of death . . .  
hurdling, through space . . . at speed!  
As these bravest of all hearts so crest, and so  
rapidly so beat . . . all in this their  
race against time, we so see!  
Right to the very edge of death, all in these  
their most heroic quests!  
All for our world to so bless! This need!  
To find the answers that we must know! But,  
to Endeavour there so!  
While, all of their precious lives but lie in  
their hands . . .  
The men and women Omission control, who  
now so stand!  
Who so tirelessly work, all on their watch  
. . . who plan . . .  
As life and death, but hangs on a strand!  
For you are worth your weight in gold, as  
this we all so understand!  
As you too have chose to Endeavour, as so  
much is owed!  
As through these journeys we continue to  
learn, and grow!  
All out upon our course! So that in the end,  
Woman and Mankind may ascend!  
To new heights and so go forth!  
And so Endeavour, as you take your last and  
final mission . . .  
and final visions, and blast off to this final  
ignition!  
All in your most magnificent of quests, and  
celestial visions . . .  
A prayer, a wish . . . to all of you, but come  
our blessings!  
As you hurdle through space, on the very  
edge of death!

For all of us to bless! God Speed, and safe  
journey on that edge!

You most heroic champions of space, as said  
. . .

The ones who so dare to dream, as now up to  
new worlds you so speed!

And to all those who over the years, who too  
have so Endeavored here . . .

With tears, as you rode upon her historic  
wings . . .

As to your most courageous hearts, her  
songs to you did sing!

As you so brought back to our world, many  
a splendid thing!

All within the light of the knowledge, that  
you so carried back with you all upon  
her golden wings . . .

All because you all so chose, To Endeavour!  
—Albert Caswell

## CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH RESOLUTION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution acknowledges the important contributions Caribbean-Americans have made to our nation's history and culture.

Let me begin by thanking my esteemed colleagues Representative DONALD PAYNE, Chair of the Caribbean Caucus, Congresswomen DONNA CHRISTENSEN and FREDERICA WILSON, my esteemed friend Representative JOHN CONYERS, Congressman ED TOWNS, and many others who have joined me in introducing this resolution today, the first day of Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

I am also pleased that the President issued a Proclamation on May 31, 2011, declaring June 2011 to be Caribbean-American Heritage Month, as has been the practice since Congress unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 71 in February 2006. As a long-time supporter of the Caribbean and a frequent visitor to the region, I was very proud to see us celebrate this important commemorative month for the fifth straight year.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Claire Nelson and the Institute of Caribbean Studies as well as all the other Caribbean American organizations in Washington, my home state of California, and across the country that have worked and continue to work to make Caribbean-American Heritage Month a great success.

As the President said in his proclamation, “Immigrants from Caribbean countries have come to America for centuries. Some came through the bondage of slavery.

Others willfully left behind the world they knew in search of a better life. Regardless of the circumstances of their arrival, they had faith their descendants would have a chance to realize their greatest potential.”

Throughout the history of the United States, this nation has been fortunate to benefit from countless individuals of Caribbean descent who have contributed to American government, politics, business, arts, education, and culture—including one of my personal mentors, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm.

Shirley Chisholm was a woman of Ba-jan and Guyanese descent, who never forgot her